

like a phalanx to destroy Japanese naval operations. Admiral Nimitz defiantly proclaimed:

It was the great submarine force that I looked to carry the load until our great industrial activity could produce the weapons we so sorely needed to carry the war to the enemy. It is to the everlasting honor and glory of our submarine personnel that they never failed us in our days of great peril.

By the end of World War II, American submariners had decimated the Japanese fleet. Over 1,000 Japanese ships were destroyed in the Pacific theater alone. However, destruction was not the only role submariners would play during the war. Ships assigned to the submarine lifeguard league rescued hundreds of downed Navy and Army Air Corps flyers from the sea. In all, over 500 flyers owed their rescue to the Navy's submariners, prompting one sailor to proclaim, " \* \* they never failed us in our days of great peril, and we as a nation are forever grateful."

As World War II drew to a close, and the cold war dawned, the role of the submarines and their crews became only more invaluable. With the introduction of the nuclear powered fleet, submariners would be pushed to even greater extremes as men and ships were sent on extended missions well beyond what was imaginable only 10 years prior.

Nuclear subs carried the most lethal deterrent known to mankind—nuclear missiles. With their ability to launch from indeterminable locations without warning, the United States proved its preeminence as a naval power and maintained peace and relative stability around the world.

Triumph was not without tragedy and early nuclear submariners paid the ultimate price. In 1963, the submarine *Thresher* sank with nearly 130 crewmen aboard. Again in 1968 the *Scorpion* went down with 99 crewmen aboard. These tragic losses, however proved to open new doors for American submariners. The deep submergence rescue vehicle program was born out of tragedy and now sailors of all nations can be quickly rescued in the event of tragedy. The tragic losses are sad but gallant extensions of the traditions of duty, professional competence, and self-sacrifice which has always been the hallmark of submariners.

As we enter a new millennia and an era of changing world order, we must be ever mindful of the sacrifices made by our men and women who silently served as submariners. Throughout our history, the role of submariners and their crews have time and time again been put of the test and performed flawlessly. Each day we remember troops, airmen, and sailors—men and women alike—who paid the ultimate price for our continuing freedom. As we look back, let us not forget our submariners, active crews and veterans alike. Let us not forget the sacrifices paid by our submariners. In tribute to their valor, we offer our admiration, respect, and praise.

#### EARTH DAY

**HON. LEE H. HAMILTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I am inserting my Washington Report for Wednesday, April 23, 1997, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### EARTH DAY 1997: THE FUTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

On April 22 we celebrated the 27th Earth Day. We can take great pride in the advances that have been made in environmental protection. We have succeeded in reducing the levels of lead and other dangerous pollutants from the air. Lakes and rivers, once so contaminated they could catch on fire, now support large fish populations. Forests are rebounding. Endangered species, like the eagle, have been saved from extinction and are now thriving.

Hoosiers strongly support cleaning up our air, water, and land, and want to leave the environment safe and clean for the next generation. They overwhelmingly support sensible, targeted and moderate laws necessary to keep the environment clean. They also support the view that states and localities have a greater role to play in the environment, and that environmental laws should be based on sound science and a careful balancing of costs, benefits and risks. I agree with their common sense beliefs.

As we celebrate the 27th Earth Day, it is helpful to see how our approach to environmental protection has changed over the last two decades, and how we can best meet the environmental challenges of the 21st Century.

#### THE FEDERAL SYSTEM

Much debate has focused in recent years on the various roles that federal, state and local governments should play in environmental and other areas of regulation. There has been a strong push to devolve more responsibilities to the state and local level, where officials are closer to problems and can respond in a more flexible, cost-effective way. I support that general trend.

The federal government, however, is still the dominant player in the environmental field. There are two primary reasons for this arrangement. First, many environmental problems are national in scope. Air pollution, for example, generated in Louisville or Cincinnati can affect air quality in southern Indiana. Likewise, an oil spill in Pittsburgh will affect water quality throughout the Ohio River system. States, acting alone, cannot effectively respond to environmental problems which cross state boundaries.

Second, the federal government has the resources and expertise to determine what levels of pollution are safe for public health. The federal government first set national standards for air quality in the 1960s and has since adopted similar standards for water quality, hazardous waste disposal and the like. This regulation has come at a cost to industry and local communities—and often the federal government has failed to provide adequate financial resources to help state and local governments meet federal standards—but, in general, federal leadership has resulted in dramatic benefits for public health and overall environmental quality.

#### REGULATORY APPROACH

The federal approach to environmental regulation has changed over the last two decades. The first approach was characterized by "command and control." The government set the rules and expected state and local governments as well as industry to obey them. Under this approach, a factory would be required to install a specific pollution control device.

"Command and control" has worked, at some cost, in terms of controlling large point sources of pollution, such as industrial facilities, but has been less successful in reducing pollution created by numerous smaller sources. For example, storm runoff can wash pollutants from farms, highways and city streets into the water system. Such dif-

fuse pollution sources are difficult to control.

The federal government is now taking a more cooperative approach in addressing environmental problems. Today, the federal government takes the lead in setting standards for the country, and assumes a substantial share of the resources, but works closely with the states and the regulated community to implement the laws and find cost-effective solutions which aim to strike a balance between environmental protection and economic growth. Many farmers, for example, have switched to low-till or even no-till farming practices. Such methods not only reduce soil erosion and help prevent water contamination, but also improve overall efficiency of the farm operation.

#### THE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Environmental problems can be global. Scientists concluded that use of CFCs (a group of chemicals commonly used in aerosol spray cans and automobile air conditioners) was depleting the ozone layer. Ozone in the upper levels of the atmosphere acts as a shield against harmful ultraviolet radiation from the sun. In response, the U.S. joined other countries in approving a phaseout of CFCs, and U.S. companies are now leading the way in developing safer substitutes.

The U.S. is working with other countries on a host of international environmental problems, such as maintaining fish and other wildlife in our oceans and improving environmental quality along our borders with Mexico and Canada. The U.S. can and should participate in these efforts because it is in our national interest to do so. If we take a leading role, we can insist that other countries abide by similar environmental standards.

#### CONCLUSION

When I was first elected to Congress in 1964, there was little or no discussion about the environment. That has, of course, changed. Environmental protection now ranks as one of the most important concerns of the American public, and progress has certainly been made: substantial reductions in most air and water pollution; international efforts to phase out CFCs; reductions in children's blood lead levels; improved industrial management practices to reduce emissions; and, more broadly, a strengthened stewardship ethic to minimize environmental damage.

The challenge for the next century is building upon our successes in more flexible, cost-effective ways. New approaches will entail using innovative technologies, increasing community participation, placing more emphasis on prevention, streamlining government regulations, providing economic incentives to business and industry, and urging cooperation at all levels. As long as the population, economy, and per capita income grow the pressure on the environment will grow. Our challenge is finding the right balance between environmental protection and economic growth.

**JEROME WARNER, NEBRASKA'S PREEMINENT CITIZEN LEGISLATOR**

**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this week Nebraskans bade farewell to an extraordinary man. State Senator Jerome Warner, a family